



## TOWN OF OXFORD

S.B. Church Memorial Town Hall  
486 Oxford Road, Oxford, Connecticut 06478-1298  
Phone: (203) 888-2543 Fax: (203) 888-2136

**Date: February 24, 2009**

**Testimony of Herman Schuler, Economic Development Director, Town of Oxford Connecticut re: SB 424 AN ACT CONCERNING RECONSTRUCTION AND IMPROVEMENTS IN THE AREA OF EXIT 16, I-84 and SB 430 AN ACT TO PROVIDE STATE FUNDING FOR THE COMPLETION OF THE OXFORD INDUSTRIAL LOOP ROADWAY SYSTEM**

Senator DeFronzo, Representative Guerrero and members of the Transportation Committee, thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony in support of SB 424 and SB430. These bills are proposed to support regional development of industrial infrastructure, economic development and job creation in the towns of Oxford, Middlebury & Southbury.

The Town of Oxford has approved three new industrial subdivisions totaling 1.3 million square feet south of I-84, Exit 16. The Waterbury-Oxford Airport has plans to add 273,000 square feet of corporate jet hangar space to provide aviation services to 30 additional wide cabin corporate jets. In addition, Middlebury and Southbury have approved two additional subdivisions north of Exit 16 totally over 500,000 square feet.

According to a recent CEPA/EIE prepared for Oxford, direct economic output resulting from the build out of the Oxford facilities alone will result in creating 2,875 new jobs and generate over \$301 million in additional economic output. The new hangar project on the airport is forecast to create 300 additional aviation and flight services positions when complete.

To accommodate the traffic generated by these new business developments, the traffic handling capacity of I-84, Exit 16 must be improved with additional signals and dedicated traffic lanes both north and south of I-84. The westbound exit and Old Waterbury Road intersection is already scheduled for improvements in 2013, however, the east bound entrance and exit ramp will require enhancements that have not yet been designed or scheduled.

SB424, AN ACT CONCERNING RECONSTRUCTION AND IMPROVEMENTS IN THE AREA OF EXIT 16, I-84 seeks to advance the schedule for completing all required revisions to Exit 16 by the end of 2010 and provides an additional \$1.7 million dollars to complete the design and construction of signals and traffic capacity improvements for the eastbound entrance and exit ramps.

We feel this project provides regional benefits by establishing the future traffic handling capacity at Exit 16 that will be required to support future growth in the surrounding towns. We ask Committee Members to consider approving this measure as a proactive measure that supports the governor's regionalization and economic stimulus goals.

Referencing SB 430, AN ACT TO PROVIDE STATE FUNDING FOR THE COMPLETION OF THE OXFORD INDUSTRIAL LOOP ROADWAY SYSTEM we recognize a recently completed CEPA/EIE that evaluated and quantified benefits resulting from development of the Woodruff Hill Industrial Park and the other major industrial subdivisions currently being marketed through the town's economic development efforts.

The CEPA/EIE endorsed continued development in Oxford's industrial zone and qualified the Industrial Loop Roadway System for state funding. SB 430 appropriates state funding in the amount of \$420,000 to begin construction of new roadway segments based on a prioritized implementation plan that focuses on elimination of the traffic hazards to our residential communities .

We ask Committee Members to support this appropriation so that the first engineered and permitted roadway segment connecting Commerce Drive with Jacks Hill Road can be completed in 2009.